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1. FRENCH COMMUNIST CRITICISM OF SOVIET LEADERS

Comment on:

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The French Communist Party's criticism on 18 June of the present Soviet leaders as well as Stalin is conditioned by its desire to present itself as a national party, independent of Moscow's control. Besides criticizing Stalin's arbitrary repression of militant Communists, the party attacked Khrushchev for failing to give advance notice of his denunciation of Stalin.

This criticism is no more a repudiation of loyalty to Moscow than the attacks two days earlier by Italian Communist leader Togliatti, who challenged Soviet leaders for an explanation of their role during the Stalin era. Both French and Italian leaders remain committed to the international Communist movement and appear to adhere to the new Communist line, set forth at the 20th Party Congress, affirming different roads to "socialism." The French Communists will probably use this attack in an effort to enhance their political respectability at home and improve prospects for a popular front.



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2. INDIA REPORTED PURCHASING FRENCH AND BRITISH FIGHTER PLANES

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Comment

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India will continue to depend on Western sources for fighter aircraft. India has not yet committed itself, however, on whether it will purchase British Canberra or Soviet IL-28 bombers. It is apparently negotiating for Soviet IL-14's for its domestic commercial airlines. [REDACTED] (Concurred in by ORR)

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3. COMMUNIST-MANIPULATED PARTY MAY PARTICIPATE IN SINGAPORE "NATIONAL FRONT"

Comment on:

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The Communist-manipulated People's Action Party is apparently having some success in promoting a united front in Singapore. According to the American consulate general, the formation of an informal coalition between the Action Party and the government parties is a possibility. Such a coalition would combine the hitherto divided forces of Communism and nationalism in Singapore.

Although Chief Minister Lim Yew Hock of the Labor Front has indicated his government would remain firmly non-Communist, Deputy Chief Minister Jumat, leader of the Singapore branch of the United Malay Nationalist Organization, has consistently shown an interest in closer relations with the increasingly influential People's Action Party. For its part, the Action Party has encouraged such overtures by Jumat. The party apparently hopes that co-operation in Singapore will facilitate efforts to establish itself in the separately administered Federation of Malaya, where the Malay organization is the largest political group and leads the government.

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4. HONDURAN GOVERNMENT FACES THREAT OF GENERAL STRIKE

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The threat of a general strike, intended to lead to the overthrow of the government of Honduras, is causing tension both in the capital and in the north coast region, where 30,000 workers are employed on banana plantations, according to the American embassy in Tegucigalpa. The embassy believes the strike is being promoted by Villeda Morales, leader of the radical, Communist-influenced majority of the Liberal Party, and Gonzalo Carias, son of a former dictator.

As yet the strike threat has not made much headway, and Chief of State Lozano is ready to take strong measures. He plans to arrest most of the top Villeda command, and possibly young Carias, if the strike occurs. A decree for martial law has been prepared.

Comment

The strike threat may mean that the opposition, convinced that Lozano will not permit free elections in October, as promised, hopes to bring about conditions which would justify an attempt against the government.

Lozano, who lacks wide popular support, apparently enjoys the loyalty of the army, which would probably be decisive.

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THE ARAB-ISRAELI SITUATION
(Information as of 1700, 19 June)

Nothing of significance to report.

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